

"Let the Indian and the non-citizen of Indian Territory unite their energies and begin at once to create a sentiment for Independent Statehood that will NOT DOWN till the Star of Jefferson is added to the flag of the Union."

COMMITTEE:

W. H. ANSLEY, CHAIRMAN
CHOCTAW NATION
ALEX POSEY
CREEK NATION
W. H. MURRAY
CHICKASAW NATION
A. J. BROWN
SEMINOLE NATION
CONNELL ROGERS
CHEROKEE NATION

Independent Statehood
FOR INDIAN TERRITORY
Five Civilized Tribes
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

SOUTH McALESTER, INDIAN TERRITORY.

January 19, 1904.

Governor Green McCurtain,
Kinta, Indian Territory.

Dear Sir:

I heard in a round-about-way, the other day, that the Attorney General had made a ruling stating, that the Dawes Commission could not hold up the Pine lands, that they were subject to allotment.

Please advise me whether or not this is true.

D. C. McCurtain advised me that the President had approved the bill appropriating \$500.00 for the statehood campaign. Have you been notified by the Department, and if so?, how will I go about getting a warrant for what I have already expended.

Would be glad to hear from you at your earliet convenience.

Yours very truly,

W H Ansley

...Office of...

SIMON H. WOODS,

County and Probate Judge

of Wade County, C. N.

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Talihina, Ind. Ter., July 21 1904

Hon Green M. Curtis P. C. C. N.

Kiuta

Ind Terr.

My dear Governor:

Your esteemed letter dated Jan 4 - '04, came duly to hand and contents thereof being read with the most highest esteem pleasure, by my ^{self} father noting with reference to our application as delegate to the "International Constitutional Convention" that when the time comes to make the appointment that you shall take father and myself into favorable consideration,

Governor, accept this ^{letter} as our most gratitude of thanks tendered to yourself for us for your kind courtesy shown to us.

Well Gov-Father is getting up once more, he is now so that he can sit in the chair, next to his bed-side but he did have a siege of a long spell, about 2 months,

Governor, If there is any thing you wish for me to do at any time do

...Office of...

SIMON H. WOODS,

County and Probate Judge

of Wade County, C. N.

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Talihina, Ind. Ter.,

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not fail or hesitate to call on me
~~and~~ to do in my County as to instructing
me for the betterment of the County, politically,
Judicially, or otherwise, I am with you
until we are snowed together, and shall
do anything in my power so to do, and you
shall always find my firmness, from the
men out home in my neighborhood, that I
always considered my word as good as
a bond, but not like Gay P. Cobbs straw
bond that is no good where they get boys
like Solomon Taylor, and a few others which
they did in Tishomingo, that has not even a
penny in their pocket, much less personal effects,
I guess they have a good suit of clothes from
their little Lease Consideration,

My family is not very well, wife
is very sick after setting up so much with
father, we are not all together well,

Hoping you & family well, we extend
best wishes to yourself & family, So sorry to hear
of Bums' misfortune losing his wife, Nelson

...Office of...

SIMON H. WOODS,

County and Probate Judge

of Wade County, C. N.

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Talithina, Ind. Ter.,

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Columa died Tuesday last and another white fellow died in Talithina, by name of Rebe Tuttle the Drayman of this town, both died from the effects of Luon Extract having been drinking for some time,

Henry Shillis is still alive, yet he says he is going to farm right this year as the Academy business is no good now he says, and is going to follow something else see if that wont give him some change in life, he says make lengthen life, ^{some} any way, as life is all he wants.

With kindest regards to yourself
Governer & family,

I remain, Your friend

Simon H. Woods,

P.S.

Governer, father says he is going to write you a long letter when he gets well enough so that he can,

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SOUTH McALESTER, INDIAN TERRITORY.

January 19, 1904.

Governor Green McCurtain,

Kinta, Indian Territory.

Dear Sir:

Since my letter suggesting that it might be a good idea to have the constitutional convention as provided by the plans adopted at Eufaula, I have given the subject much consideration and I am forced to the belief that the scheme for a convention has been defeated by the inaction of the Indians themselves:

The Choctaws did their part nobly. The Creeks partly carried out the plans. The Seminoles did not do quite as much as the Creeks, and the Chickasaws and Cherokees failed completely.

In view of these facts I can not help but believe that the Indians have lost the opportunity of holding a constitutional convention; however, the separate statehood idea may yet prevail.

As the matter stands the Choctaws can retire gracefully, but should we go ahead in an effort to bring about the proposed con-

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vention, I fear the Chickasaws and the Cherokees would not respond to the call, and then the whole thing would fall flat, which would very likely subject you to severe criticism by the single statehood press. Of course I know full well that, that possibility would not deter you if there was any chance to advance the work for a separate state, but as the matter stands, and we have a good right to assume that the Cherokees and the Chickasaws will not respond, I fear that we could only make a failure of the attempt to hold a convention as provided in the plans.

I do not mean to give up the fight, but considering, that there is now several bills before Congress, all having for their aim the ultimate annexation of Indian Territory to Oklahoma, I believe that we should take quick action, and make a vigorous protest against all such plans.

I suggest the following plan: You to at once issue a call to each of the Chief Executives, asking them to meet with you at some convenient point, and join in a formal protest against the annexation of the Creek and Seminole Nations to Oklahoma, and any and all bills that mean annexation of Indian Territory to Oklahoma. This protest should be addressed to the Senate and House of Representatives, and should be directed to the Secretary of the Interior with the request that he transmit the same to each house. That

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would insure one thing, that is, that the protest would be read in both the Senate and House, and referred to the Committee on Territories. I do not see how we can do more. We can make our protest and if Congress sees fit to ignore them, we will have to take our "medicine".

I think that we ought to charge in the protest that the leaders of the Republican Party are advocating this annexation scheme from purely a partisan standpoint, with the hope, that if the Creek and Seminole Nations are added Oklahoma will be Republican; and I believe that the Indians of the Five Tribes ought to serve notice on the leaders of the Republican Party, that if they permit this thing to be done, they will charge it up to that Party, and take good care to remember them in the years to come. Now that is the way I feel about it, of course it might not be policy to do that, yet, I can not see where it could make matters any worse; however, these are only suggestions, and after mature consideration may not amount to much.

The protest should also contain a clause endorsing the Foley bill, and we might gain a point in that, by saying that if Congress would give the Indian Territory a delegate and let the people of Indian Territory say, whether they want a separate or single state, that the Indians would agree to the decision of the people.

Would be glad to hear from you on this subject.

Yours truly,

W H Ausley

Kinta, I.T., January 27, 1904.

Judge S.H. Woods,

Talihina, I.T.

Dear sir:

Replying to your recent letter wherein you request me to appoint your father as one of the delegates to the Constitutional convention, and I have to advise that I have decided not to have anything further to do with this matter for the reason that the other Tribes do not seem to take a willing hand. The Chickasaws and Cherokees have just ignored the entire matter, and I do not want to go into the thing unless there is union.

I read your letter with a great deal of interest. Am sorry to know your father has been ill so long, but glad to know he is improving. I have been confined to my room for some time with a very sore foot but am now able to walk around. Keep me posted as to what is going on down in that part of the country. Am always glad to hear from you.

Your friend,

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,

UNITED STATES INDIAN INSPECTOR

FOR

INDIAN TERRITORY,

36240-1904

Muskogee, Ind. T., Feb. 16, 1904.

Hon. Green McCurtain,
Principal Chief, Choctaw Nation,
Kintah, Indian Territory.

Sir:-

I am in receipt of your letter of the 2nd instant, acknowledging receipt of my communication advising of the approval of the act providing for the sale of lands adjacent to Fort Smith.

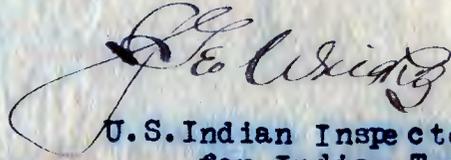
In reply I have to respectfully state that the Chickasaw legislature passed a similar act which has just been approved by the President. Both of these acts provide for the disposition of this land in accordance with law at the earliest practicable date.

I will be glad to receive any suggestions from you as to your wishes in the matter, noting your desire that it be disposed of at once.

In response to your inquiry as to whether the bill appropriating \$500.00 to pay the expenses of the recent election looking to the calling of a constitutional convention, I have to respectfully state this act was approved by the President December 30, 1903, and was returned to your National Secretary on

January 14, 1904.

Very respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. E. Wright". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

U.S. Indian Inspector
for Indian Territory.

D.H.K. (C)

Kinta, I.T., February 18, 1904.

Mr Henry Ansley,

S. McAlester, I.T.

Dear sir:

I am today in receipt of a letter from Hon. J George Wright, U.S. Inspector, in which he advises me that the bill passed by the recent Council appropriating \$500.00 to pay the expenses of the recent election looking to the calling of a constitutional convention, was, by the President, approved on December 30, 1903, and was returned to our National Secretary on January 14, 1904.

This for your information.

Yours truly,

Prin. Chief C.N.

...Office of...

SIMON H. WOODS,

County and Probate Judge

of Wade County, C. N.

Talikhina, Ind. Ter., Feb 18 1904

Gov. Green M. Custard P. C. T. N.,

Winton

Ind Ter

Dear Governor:

Your letter of a recent date to hand, of which I was very glad to hear from you as to matters pertaining generally,

In your letter I note that the International Constitution Convention seems to be a failure, I was very sorry to hear of the Chickasaw & Cherokee settling down on the question, I think they was afraid that you was climbing the ladder to fast and they would not be in it, when it comes to the ^{time for} State Governor,

I am proud to say this much Governor that if you run for the Chief's office you can get it without any opposition this time,

Well Governor, we have a great deal of sickness & people dying, Wesley Woods lost his wife, a few days ago, James Newson

...Office of...

SIMON H. WOODS,

County and Probate Judge
of Wade County, C. N.

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Talikhina, Ind. Ter.,

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wife died also, Brother Steve lost one of his little boys, father has recovered all right, he has got so he can ride horse back and round the cattle allite,

Well Governor we have some whites who are Duxes Hunter, sympathizers and are not wanting to pay permits, and others that say they wont pay,

And the leaders of the Duxes Hunter faction, I rather Duxes & rogues & their subordinates have not made any application for their permits, What shall I do, to get a head of them, I am going to do what ever the law directs, but I want your advice first,

Kindly write me as to the matter

I am Your friend

Simon H. Woods

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SOUTH McALESTER, INDIAN TERRITORY.

February 19, 1904.

Governor Green McCurtain,

Kinta, Indian Territory.

Dear Sir:

The last paragraph of the preamble to the act appropriating \$500.00 for the expenses of the campaign, reads as follows:

" The said committee will incur heavy expenses in printing literature in english and the several Indian languages, and distributing the same among the members of the Tribes, among members of Congress, and among the several organizations outside of Indian Territory whose co-operation is invited; now therefore, etc.

" Section 2. The Principal Chief is hereby authorized to issue his certificate on the National Auditor, from time to time, to cover the said expenses as they are incurred, and the National Treasurer shall pay the said warrants."

Under the above you undoubtedly have the authority to issue a certificate upon the National Auditor, and the Treasurer is required to pay the same. Do you desire me to furnish an itemize statement. Hoping to hear from you soon.

Your friend,

W H Ansley

Kinta, I.T., February 22, 1904.

Mr W.H. Ansley,

S. McAlester, I.T.

Dear sir:

In reply to your letter of the 19th inst, please advise me whether or not the Act appropriating the money to pay the expenses of the recent election provide that so much as is necessary to pay the clerks and election judges shall be used for that purpose. If you have a copy of the Act please send me the same in order that I may comply with its terms in issuing my certificate.

Yours truly,

Prin. Chief C.N.

Kinta, I.T., February 22, 1904.

Judge S.H. Woods,

Talihina, I.T.

Dear sir:

I am in receipt of your letter of recent date, and note what you say with reference to the Constitutional Convention. I was sorry that we was not able to carry out the programme as originally planed, but feel that it was no fault of the Choctaw people. With reference to the payment of permits in your County I would suggest that you have the officers make the proper demand there to citizens to make their applications for permits for their renters and if they fail to do so, then to report them to the next grand jury. The Dukes-Hunter people ofcourse are doing everything in their power to hamper us in the discharge of the duties we owe the people, but I do not feel discouraged in the least, as I know they are loosing ground rapidly. It would be well for you to give them to understand that you are going to enforce the law in Wade County as long as you are County Judge.

Yours truly,

Kinta, I.T., March 7, 1904.

Mr Peter J. Hudson, Auditor,
Tushkahoma, I.T.

Dear sir:

I wish you to advise you that the Bill, No. _____, providing an appropriation of \$500.00 to pay the expense of the recent election, has been approved by the President. This bill provided that upon certificate from this office, warrant was to be issued by your office for this amount.

You will therefore use this letter as such certificate, and issue your warrant in favor of Henry Ansley, and send the same to him at once.

Yours truly,

Prin. Chief C.N.

Durant - I.T. July 24th 1904.

Hon. Green McBristain
Kieta I.T.

Dear friend

That I want to know Position
whether you sanction this move
now lately advocating separate
statehood Constitutional ^{Convention} started
from Creek Nation. That I saw in
the Public Press Publishing a deprecate
report there is conflict some say
you are approval the move and
if you are let me know, that we
did sanction this move about two
years ago but other nation never take
^{no} interest and was drop out. But now
let them take the lead provided if
they can successfully carried out - I always
believed it ought to be an Indian state
made out five Nations that would give
us a representation in the Legislature.

of the new state, But if both Territory
be put together the Indian people never
will be elected no representative of
the new state; at the same time Indian
will bear the Burden of Taxation.
But of course we all know that the
Power lies with Congress, but we
have a perfect right - ask them
what we want, and another thing
our business will not be fully est-
tablished according to the limit as
specified by treaty. and I am afraid
would be like our old Red proceed
claim was, this money was actually
belonging these Poor Indian but they
never received no benefit until
all dead and gone when paid.
and we don't want our coal & and
other property be the same thing.
Respectfully your friend.

J. J. Gardner

ROBERT L. OWEN
418 BOND BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Washington, D.C. March, 4th, 1904.

Hon. Green McCurtain,
Principal Chief, Choctaw Nation,
San Bois, I.T.

Dear Sir:

There is considerable danger of Oklahoma being extended over Indian Territory. The Republican leaders seem to be strongly inclined that way.

I send you in another mail, a copy of a statement I made before them in which I attempted to prevent this from being done.

The ~~Choctaw~~ Government ought to take immediate steps to be heard on this matter. If it can be properly arranged before the committee, or if it could be delayed, so that no action was taken at this Session, the danger of the legislation would be greatly abated.

The impression has been made here that Indian Territory is in favor of this legislation. If you do favor it, of course it is not necessary for you to give yourself any concern, but if you are ~~opposed to the union of Indian Territory~~ and Oklahoma, it is important that you give this matter your immediate attention. I suggest that you have some one come in your stead, if you should find yourself prevented from coming for any reason.

I talked with your son in regard to this matter and he promised me to write you, which no doubt he has done. I think delay of great importance, because if it goes over for this long session I think that sufficient opposition can be arranged in the next Session of Congress to prevent such action.

Yours respectfully,

R. L. Owen